

GENERAL NOTES.

Cabot's Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis acuflavida*) **Breeding in North Carolina.**—In Pamlico Sound, North Carolina, about ten miles westward from the village of Ocracoke lies Royal Shoal Island. It is little more than a lump of sand and shells rearing its back scarcely three feet above high water. In area it is rather less than four acres. This island has for many years been a popular resort for breeding sea-birds. For five years the Audubon Society has protected them from the ravages of the feather hunter and egg-eating fisherman, and as a result the colony has largely increased. Laughing Gulls, Black Skimmers and Wilson's Terns breed here in numbers, and the Least Terns are perhaps more numerous about the island in summer than at any other breeding place on the Atlantic coast. The most numerous species, however, is the Royal Tern, and about 3500 young are believed to have been raised here the past season. On my last annual trip of inspection I reached Royal Shoal on June 25, 1907, and soon discovered a new bird breeding here. Closer inspection revealed the new-comer to be *Sterna sandvicensis acuflavida*. The nests of this bird, over twenty of which I counted, were merely slight excavations in the sand. These were all located among the closely clustered nests of the Royal Tern with which bird the Cabot's Tern seemed to associate constantly. Like their large neighbors, they were very tame and I easily photographed individuals at a distance of not over fifteen feet. Later in the day, by exercising patience, I crawled over the bare beach to within *seven feet* of one as it sat on its eggs, and for several minutes we observed each other at leisure. During the course of my approach the bird frequently left the nest and hovered above it but quickly settled again when my movements ceased. Warden Jannett, who guards the island, reported that sixty-four Cabot's Tern's eggs were laid during the season. This bird has not previously been noticed breeding among the protected colonies in the State, and in fact, so far as I am aware, there have been no records of its occurrence in North Carolina, except one reported by Dr. Louis B. Bishop (MS.) from Pea Island, August 22, 1904.—T. GILBERT PEARSON, Greensboro, N. C.

Lead Poisoning in Ducks.—An interesting condition of affairs, which nevertheless promises to have serious results in the future, came to my notice during the past hunting season. The Misqually Flats, one of the numerous large marshes of Puget Sound, has been famous for its duck shooting almost ever since the first settlement of the State. Many tons of shot must have been showered over its broad expanse, but until this year no harm from this source has come to any ducks that did not get it direct from a shot gun. Consequently I was surprised to discover the following conditions:—My attention was directed by a game-keeper to